GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1908
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
PROMOTION TO MEDICINAL PLANTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of awareness among the people regarding usage of medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Union Government to encourage the users and farmers engaged in the farming of medicinal plants in the country;

(c) the funds allocated by the Medicinal Plant Boards for the same during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the export promotion zones established by the Medicinal Plant Boards in various States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board to coordinate activities for development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has been implementing schemes for various promotional activities which include programmes on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities viz. Seminars / Training / Workshops etc. The objective is to create greater awareness amongst all stake holders including the users and farmers about the usage, importance, need and steps required for development of medicinal plants. Enclosed at Annexure I & II are the details of projects sanctioned and funds allocated by National Medicinal Plants Board for such activities during the year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and the current year.
Development of medicinal plants has also been included as one of the components under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Horticulture Mission" implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Training of farmers and exposure visits within and outside the state are the activities supported for technology dissemination on horticultural crops including medicinal and aromatic plants.

(d): No export promotion zones have been established by the Medicinal Plants Board so far.